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Jelinek Supports Prescription Drug Cost Relief ***Senator wants prescription drugs to be affordable to Seniors***

LANSING- Senator Ron Jelinek, R- Three Oaks, today announced he is looking into supporting a new group of bills in the Legislature to help relieve the high cost of prescription drugs.

One of the bills, Senate Bill 75, sponsored by Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, would allow Michigan to create a multi-state consortium to negotiate best prices from pharmaceutical manufacturers and pass along the savings to senior citizens.

“With prescription drug prices being so high today, I am willing to research any plan to help Michigan’s citizens afford the medications they need,” Jelinek stated. “We are just beginning to look into the multi-state consortium as a solution to our prescription drug cost problem, but something absolutely has to be done about this issue.”

Senate Bill 75 calls for a system to be established to distribute products and services to qualifying seniors, age fifty or older and have income at or below the federal poverty line. Each participating state of the pharmaceutical purchasing program shall provide the products and services at its actual cost plus any administrative costs of the program. The administrative costs would not exceed 3% of the actual cost of the medication.

There are several other similar bills which would create a multi-state buying compact introduced in the Legislature at this time.

“Hopefully, as a Legislature, we can come up with a plan very soon to alleviate the burden of high prescription drug costs to Michigan Seniors,” Jelinek continued.